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# A simple approach to Thom polynomials for $C^\infty$ maps : Vassil'ev complex for contact classes

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A simple approach to Thom polynomials for  $C^\infty$  maps :

Vassil'ev complex for contact classes

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In recent works by V.A.Vassil'ev ([7]), he has constructed the "universal cochain complex" related to the hierarchy of degenerate singularities of smooth functions. This represents combinatorial aspects of complicated relations between distinct singularity types. The purpose of this note is to construct the "universal complex" for singularities of smooth mappings, analogous to Vassil'ev's one.

As usual we let  $J^k(n, p)$  denote the space of  $k$ -jets of germs from  $\mathbb{R}^n, 0$  to  $\mathbb{R}^p, 0$ , and  $K^k$   $k$ -jets of the group of contact equivalence.

### 1. $K^k$ -classification of $J^k(n, p)$ and Vassil'ev complex

DEFINITION(1.1). Let  $\gamma$  be a stratification of  $J^k(n, p)$  such that each stratum of  $\gamma$  is a semialgebraic set.  $\gamma$  is said to be a  $K^k$ -classification of  $J^k(n, p)$  if  $\gamma$  satisfies the following properties.

- (1) Each stratum of  $\gamma$  is  $K^k$  invariant.
- (2) If a stratum of  $\gamma$  has connected components  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ , then there are two points  $z_i \in L_i (i = 1, 2)$  such that  $z_1$  is  $K^k$ -equivalent to  $z_2$ .
- (3)  $\gamma$  satisfies the Whitney regularity condition.

Remark(1.2) Let  $\gamma$  be a  $K^k$ -classification of  $J^k(n, p)$ . Then,

- (1)  $\gamma$  is finite set. This is verified from locally finiteness and the fact that elements of  $\gamma$  are invariant under the action of positive real numbers  $\mathbb{R}^+$  on  $J^k(n, p)$  which is defined by  $t \cdot j^k f := j^k(tf)$  where  $t \in \mathbb{R}^+$ .

- (2)  $\gamma$  satisfies the frontier condition— for  $X, Y \in \gamma$  with  $\overline{X} \cap Y \neq \emptyset$ , it holds that  $Y \subset \overline{X}$ . The reason is as follows. We let  $\gamma^c$  denote a stratification of  $J^k(n, p)$  into all connected components of the strata of  $\gamma$ . Then, it follows from (3) in Definition(1.1) that  $\gamma^c$  satisfies the frontier condition ( see Gibon et al.[1], p.61, (5.6) and (5.7) ). Therefore, for  $X, Y \in \gamma$  and some connected component  $L_1$  of  $Y$  with  $\overline{X} \cap L_1 \neq \emptyset$ , we see  $L_1 \subset \overline{X}$ . For any connected component  $L_2$  of  $Y$ , we can see that  $\overline{X} \cap L_2 \neq \emptyset$  by using (1),(2) in Definition(1.1), and hence we have  $L_2 \subset \overline{X}$  as well as  $L_1$ . Thus  $Y \subset \overline{X}$ .

PROPOSITION(1.3). Let  $\eta$  be a locally finite partition of  $J^k(n, p)$  into semialgebraic  $K^k$  invariant subsets. Then, there is a  $K^k$ -classification of  $J^k(n, p)$ , any stratum of which belongs to some element of  $\eta$ .

In fact, we can construct a  $K^k$ -classification subordinate to  $\eta$  by using only the following operations: Boolean operations, taking the closure, partition into families of  $K^k$ -equivalent components on the linear connection, and removing the singular locus and bad point sets ( e.g. Vassil'ev [7] or Gibson et al.[1]).

(1.4) Assume that we are given a  $K^k$ -classification  $\gamma$  of  $J^k(n, p)$ . For  $\gamma$ , we set

$C(\gamma) := \mathbb{Z}_2$ -module generated by all elements of  $\gamma$ ,

$C^s(\gamma) := \mathbb{Z}_2$ -module generated by elements of  $\gamma$  with codimension  $= s$  ( $s \geq 0$ ).

Then,  $C(\gamma) = \bigoplus_s C^s(\gamma)$ .

Let us define the boundary operator  $\delta_\gamma : C^s(\gamma) \rightarrow C^{s+1}(\gamma)$ .

Let  $X$  be a strata of  $\gamma$  with codim  $s$ . From the frontier condition of  $\gamma$  ( see (1.2-2) ),  $\overline{X}$  ( closure of  $X$  ) admits a stratification whose elements are all the strata  $Y \in \gamma$  with  $Y \subset \overline{X}$ . This stratification of  $\overline{X}$  induces the filtration  $(V_i)_{i \geq 0}$  of  $\overline{X}$  by codimension where  $V_i$  is the union of the strata with codimension  $\geq s + i$  contained in  $\overline{X}$ . Set  $m = \dim J^k(n, p)$ , and let

$$\partial : H_{m-s}(V_0, V_1; \mathbb{Z}_2) \rightarrow H_{m-s-1}(V_1, V_2; \mathbb{Z}_2)$$

denote the connection homomorphism. Here we use closed supported homology groups. Let  $\mu_X$  be the fundamental class of  $H_{m-s}(V_0, V_1; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ . For any  $Y \in \gamma$  with  $Y \subset V_1 - V_2$  and a point  $y \in Y$ , we define  $[X; Y]_y \in \mathbb{Z}_2$  by the value of  $j_* \circ \partial(\mu_X)$  where  $j_* : H_{m-s-1}(V_1, V_2; \mathbb{Z}_2) \rightarrow H_{m-s-1}(V_1, V_1 - y; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ . From the conditions (1), (2) in Definition(1.1), we can see that  $[X; Y]_y$  depends only on  $X$  and  $Y$ , and therefore we can define  $[X; Y]$  by  $[X; Y]_y$  for some  $y \in Y$ . For any  $Y \in \gamma$  such that  $Y \not\subset V_1 - V_2$ , we set  $[X; Y] := 0$ . Now we can define  $\delta_\gamma(X) \in C^{s+1}(\gamma)$  by  $\sum_{Y \in \gamma} [X; Y]Y$ .

LEMMA(1.5).  $\delta_\gamma \circ \delta_\gamma = 0$ .

Proof. For  $X \in \gamma$  with codim  $= s$ , we show  $\delta_\gamma \circ \delta_\gamma(X) = 0$ . For  $i \geq 0$ , let  $C_X^{s+i}$

denote the submodule of  $C^{s+i}(\gamma)$  generated by the strata in  $\overline{X}$  with codim  $s+i$ . If  $V_i - V_{i+1} \neq \emptyset$ , then  $V_i - V_{i+1}$  is the union of some  $Y_\alpha \in \gamma$ . Let  $\mu_\alpha$  be the fundamental class of  $H_{m-s-i}(\overline{Y_\alpha}, \overline{Y_\alpha} \cap V_{i+1})$ . Then, we have an injective homomorphism  $C_X^{s+i} \rightarrow H_{m-s-i}(V_i, V_{i+1}; \mathbb{Z}_2)$  by sending  $Y_\alpha$  to  $j_{\alpha*}\mu_\alpha$  where  $j_\alpha : Y_\alpha \hookrightarrow V_i$ . Thus, we have the following commutative diagram, which implies that  $\delta_\gamma \circ \delta_\gamma(X) = 0$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 C_X^s & \xrightarrow{\delta} & C_X^{s+1} & \xrightarrow{\delta} & C_X^{s+2} \\
 \simeq \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 H_{m-s}(V_0, V_1) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & H_{m-s-1}(V_1, V_2) & \xrightarrow{\partial} & H_{m-s-2}(V_2, V_3)
 \end{array}$$

Q.E.D.

(1.6) The set  $\Gamma$  of all  $K^k$ -classifications of  $J^k(n, p)$  is partially ordered: For  $\gamma, \gamma'$  in  $\Gamma$ ,  $\gamma \leq \gamma'$  if any stratum of  $\gamma'$  is contained in some strata of  $\gamma$ .

For  $\gamma, \gamma' \in \Gamma$ ,  $\gamma \cap \gamma' = \{X \cap X' | X \in \gamma, X' \in \gamma'\}$  is a locally finite partition of  $J^k(n, p)$  whose elements,  $X \cap X'$ , are  $K^k$  invariant semialgebraic sets, and from (1.2) it follows that there is a  $K^k$ -classification  $\gamma''$  such that  $\gamma \leq \gamma''$  and  $\gamma' \leq \gamma''$ . Thus  $\Gamma$  is a directed set.

If  $\gamma \leq \gamma'$ , then there is a natural homomorphism  $(\rho_{\gamma'}^\gamma) : C(\gamma) \rightarrow C(\gamma') :$  for  $X \in \gamma$ ,  $(\rho_{\gamma'}^\gamma)(X) := \sum X'_i$ , where  $X'_i \in \gamma'$  with  $X \subset X'_i$ . It is easy to see that  $(\rho_{\gamma'}^\gamma)$  commutes with  $\delta_\gamma$  and  $\delta_{\gamma'}$ , and that  $(\{C(\gamma)\}, \{(\rho_{\gamma'}^\gamma)\})_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$  is an inductive system of cochain complexes.

DEFINITION(1.7).  $C(K_{n,p}^k) := \varinjlim C(\gamma)$ .

$(\rho_{\gamma'}^\gamma)$  induces a homomorphism  $H^*(C(\gamma); \mathbb{Z}_2) \rightarrow H^*(C(\gamma'); \mathbb{Z}_2)$ , and it is easy to see  $H^*(C(K_{n,p}^k); \mathbb{Z}_2) \simeq \varinjlim H^*(C(\gamma); \mathbb{Z}_2)$ .

## 2. Vassil'ev complex for $K^\infty$ -equivalence

$C(K_{n,p}^k)$  defined in (1.7) depends only on positive integers  $n, p$  and  $k$ . In this section, we construct a cochain complex depending only on an integer  $l := p - n$ , which can be considered an inductive limit of  $C(K_{n,p}^k)$ 's in some sense.

In what follows in this section, we fix an integer  $l$ , and a positive integer  $n$  is always assumed  $n + l > 0$ .

$J^k(n, n + l)$  is simply denoted by  $J_n^k$ . For  $z = j^k f(0) \in J_n^k$ , set

$$\text{cork}(z) := \min(n, n + l) - \text{rank} df(0),$$

and for a subset  $X$  of  $J_n^k$ , set

$$\text{cork}(X) := \min\{\text{cork}(z), z \in X\}.$$

For integers  $m, n$  such that  $m \geq n$ , we define

$$i_m^n : J_n^k \rightarrow J_m^k \quad ; \quad j^k f \mapsto j^k(f \times id_{\mathbb{R}^{m-n}}).$$

We have the following lemma.

LEMMA(2.1). 1)  $i_m^n$  is transverse to every  $K^k$ -orbit in  $J_m^k$ .

2) For a semialgebraic smooth submanifold  $X$  of  $J_n^k$  invariant under the  $K^k$ -action, set

$$X(m) := K^k(i_m^n(X)) = \{Hi_m^n(z) \in J_m^k | z \in X, H \in K^k(m, m + l)\}.$$

Then,  $X(m)$  is a semialgebraic smooth submanifold of  $J_m^k$  and  $\text{codim} X(m) = \text{codim} X$ .

3) Let  $Y$  be a subset of  $J_m^k$  invariant under the  $K^k$ -action. Then,  $(i_m^n)^{-1}Y = \emptyset$  if and only if  $\text{cork}(X) > \min(n, n + l)$ .

4) Let  $Y$  be a smooth submanifold of  $J_m^k$ . If  $\text{codim} Y < (n + 1)(n + l + 1)$ , then  $\text{cork}(Y) \leq \min(n, n + l)$ .

We omit the proof.

(2.2) Let  $\gamma_n^k$  be a  $K^k$ -classification of  $J_n^k$  and let  $m \geq n$ . We construct a  $K^k$ -classification of  $J_m^k$  induced from  $\gamma_n^k$  via  $i_m^n$ . Set  $A := \{z \in J_m^k | \text{cork} z \leq \min(n, n + l)\}$  and  $B := \{z \in J_m^k | \text{cork} z > \min(n, n + l)\}$ . Then,  $J_m^k = A \cup B$  (disjoint). From (2),(3) in Lemma(2.1), it follows that  $A$  has a  $K^k$ -invariant semialgebraic stratification:  $A = \bigcup_{X \in \gamma_n^k} X(m)$  where  $X(m) := K^k(i_m^n(X))$  for  $X \in \gamma_n^k$ . Using Lemma(1.3), we obtain a  $K^k$ -classification of  $J_m^k$  (denoted by  $(i_m^n)_* \gamma_n^k$ ) subordinate a  $K^k$ -invariant semialgebraic partition of  $J_m^k$  whose elements are  $B$  and all  $X(m)$ . Moreover, a cochain

map  $C(\gamma_n^k) \rightarrow C((i_m^n)_* \gamma_n^k)$  is defined by  $X \mapsto X(m)$ . When we take the inductive limit of cochain maps  $C(\gamma) \rightarrow C((i_m^n)_* \gamma)$  over all  $K^k$ -classifications of  $J_n^k$ , we obtain a cochain map

$$(i_m^n)_\sharp : C(K_{n,n+l}^k) \rightarrow C(K_{m,m+l}^k).$$

(2.3) Let  $\gamma_n^k$  be a  $K^k$ -classification of  $J_n^k$ , and  $\pi_k^r : J_n^r \rightarrow J_n^k (k \leq r)$  the natural projection. Then,  $J_n^r$  has a  $K^r$ -classification which consists of all  $(\pi_k^r)^{-1}X$  where  $X \in \gamma_n^k$ . This  $K^r$ -classification of  $J_n^r$  is denoted by  $(\pi_k^r)^* \gamma_n^k$ . A cochain map  $C(\gamma_n^k) \rightarrow C((\pi_k^r)^* \gamma_n^k)$  is defined by  $X \mapsto (\pi_k^r)^{-1}X$ , and we have

$$(\pi_k^r)_\sharp : C(K_{n,n+l}^k) \rightarrow C(K_{n,n+l}^r).$$

LEMMA(2.4). *The following diagram commutes.*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C(K_{n,n+l}^k) & \xrightarrow{i} & C(K_{m,m+l}^k) \\ \pi \downarrow & & \pi \downarrow \\ C(K_{n,n+l}^r) & \xrightarrow{i} & C(K_{m,m+l}^r) \end{array}$$

This can be easily verified from the constructions of  $(i_m^n)_\sharp$  and  $(\pi_k^r)_\sharp$ .

DEFINITION(2.5). For an integer  $l$ ,  $C(K(l)) := \varinjlim_{n,k} C(K_{n,n+l})$ . We call the cochain complex  $(C(K(l)), \delta)$  Vassil'ev complex for  $K^\infty$ -equivalence.

We have an approximation of  $C^s(K(l))$  for small  $s$ .

PROPOSITION(2.6). For an arbitrary integer  $t > 0$ , there are two integers  $k = k(t)$ ,  $n = n(t)$  such that the natural homomorphism  $C^s(K_{n,n+l}^k) \rightarrow C^s(K(l))$  is an isomorphism for  $0 \leq s \leq t$ .

It is enough to choose  $n$  satisfying  $(n+1)(n+l+1) > t$  (by Lemma(2.1-4)) and sufficient large  $k$  (by the fact that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \text{codim} W_k(n, p) = 0$ , see Gibson [1]).

### 3. Calculation of $C(K(0))$

In this section, we assume  $l = 0$  (this is the equidimensional case), and we give the initial part of  $H^*(C(K(0)))$  without the detail of calculations.

From Mather [3,IV], we have the following proposition.

PROPOSITION(3.1). *Let  $k$  be sufficient large ( $k \geq 9$ ) and  $n \geq 2$ . Then there exists  $K^k$ -invariant semialgebraic subset  $\Delta_n^k$  of  $J^k(n, n)$  which satisfies the following properties:*

- 1)  $\text{codim} \Delta_n^k = 9$
- 2)  $J^k(n, n) - \Delta_n^k$  contains finitely many  $K^k$ -orbits with the associated algebras  $Q_k(I) \simeq \mathbb{R}[[x, y]]/I + \mathfrak{m}^{k+1}$  listed below.

$$A_q : I = \langle x^{q+1}, y \rangle \quad (0 \leq q \leq 8)$$

$$I_{a,b} : \langle x^a + y^b, xy \rangle \quad (2 \leq a \leq b, a+b \leq 8)$$

$$II_{a,b} : \langle x^a + y^b, xy \rangle \quad (2 \leq a \leq b, a+b \leq 8, \quad a, b : \text{even})$$

$$IV_3 : \langle x^2 + y^2, x^3 \rangle$$

$$G_7 : \langle x^2, y^3 \rangle$$

$$G_8 : \langle x^2 + y^3, xy^2 \rangle.$$

Thus we have a partition  $\eta$  of  $J^k(2, 2)$  where elements are  $\Delta_2^k$  and  $K^k$ -orbits in  $J^k(2, 2)$  listed above. Let  $\gamma_2^k$  be the  $K^k$ -classification obtained from  $\eta$  by Lemma(1.3). From Lemma(2.6) we see

$$C^s(\gamma_2^k) \simeq C^s(K_{n,n}^k) \simeq C^s(K(0)) \quad \text{for } s \leq 8, n \geq 2.$$

In the following theorem, We determine the value of the differential  $\delta$  on generators of  $C^s(K(0))$  ( $s \leq 8$ ).

THEOREM(3.2). *The differential operator of  $(C^s(K(0)), \delta)$  for  $s \leq 8$  are described by the following formulae:*

$$1) \delta A_s = 0 \quad (0 \leq s \leq 8),$$

$$2) \delta I_{2,2} = \delta II_{2,2} = I_{2,3},$$

$$3) \delta I_{2,3} = 0,$$

$$4) \delta I_{2,4} = \delta II_{2,4} = I_{2,5} + I_{3,4},$$

$$5) \delta I_{3,3} = \delta IV_3 = G_7,$$

$$6) \delta I_{2,5} = \delta I_{3,4} = 0,$$

$$7) \delta G_7 = 0.$$

This result is obtained from direct calculus of  $[X; Y]$  for all  $X, Y \in \gamma_2^k$ . Here we

omit the detail ( see Ohmoto [5] and Lander [2] ).

COROLLARY(3.3). Cohomology groups  $H^s(C(K(0)); \mathbb{Z}_2)$  ( $s \leq 8$ ) are given in Table 1. Cycles of  $C^s(K(0))$  whose classes are zero in  $H^s(C(K(0)))$  are  $I_{2,3}$  ( $s = 5$ ),  $I_{2,5} + I_{3,4}$  ( $s = 7$ ) and  $G_7$  ( $s = 7$ ).

$s =$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$H^*(C(K(0)))$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$(\mathbb{Z}_2)^2$	$\mathbb{Z}_2$	$(\mathbb{Z}_2)^3$	$(\mathbb{Z}_2)^2$
generator	$A_0$	$A_1$	$A_2$	$A_3$	$A_4$	$A_5$	$A_6$	$A_7$
					$I_{22} + \mathbb{I}_{22}$		$I_{24} + \mathbb{I}_{24}$	$I_{25}$ (or $I_{34}$ )
							$I_{33} + W_3$	

Table 1

#### 4. Thom polynomials

(4.1) We recall the definition of the Thom polynomials. Let  $\Sigma$  be a singularity type in a jet space  $J^k(n, p)$  whose closure  $\bar{\Sigma}$  carries a  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -fundamental class, and let  $f : N^n \rightarrow P^p$  be a  $C^\infty$  map such that  $j^k f$  is transverse to the subbundle  $\overline{\Sigma(N, P)}$  of  $J^k(N, P)$  associated to the fibre  $\bar{\Sigma}$ . Then there exists a polynomial  $P_\Sigma(f)$  in the Whitney classes of the difference bundle  $f^*TP - TN$  such that  $P_\Sigma(f)$  is equal to the Poincaré dual of  $[\bar{\Sigma}(f)]$  in  $H^*(N; \mathbb{Z}_2)$  where  $\Sigma(f) = (j^k f)^{-1}(\Sigma(N, P))$ .  $P_\Sigma(f)$  is called the Thom polynomial of  $\Sigma$  for  $f$ . If  $N$  is noncompact, we assume that the homology groups of  $N$  are closed supported.

(4.2)  $H^*(C(K(l)))$  is related to the Thom polynomials for smooth maps  $f : N^n \rightarrow P^p$  with  $l = p - n$ . For any  $c \in C^s(K_{n,p}^k)$ , there is some  $K^k$ -classification  $\gamma$  of  $J^k(n, p)$  and  $X_i \in \gamma$  such that  $\sum_i X_i \in C^s(\gamma)$  represents  $c$ . Set  $\Sigma_c := \bigcup_i X_i \subset J^k(n, p)$ . It is easy to see that if  $c$  is a cycle, that is,  $\delta_\gamma c = 0$ , then  $\Sigma_c$  satisfies the condition on  $\Sigma$  in (4.1) ( right-left invariant, and that  $\bar{\Sigma}$  has a fundamental class ). Then, we can define the Thom polynomial  $P_{\Sigma_c}(f_c)$  for generic maps  $f_c : N \rightarrow P$ .

In the case  $n = p$ , it follows immediately from (3.3) that the Thom polynomials of type  $I_{2,3}, I_{2,5} \cup I_{3,4}$  and  $G_7$  are all zero (for  $I_{2,3}$  and  $G_7$ , This has been known by Porteous [6] ).



By more precise investigations of the adjacency relations of contact orbits in  $J^k(N, P)$  of type  $A_q, I_{a,b}, \dots$ , we can have some relationships in Thom polynomials, for instance, it holds that  $P_{A_1}(f)P_{A_{2s}}(f) = P_{A_{2s+1}}(f)$  ( $s = 1, 2, 3$ ) for generic smooth maps  $f$  (see [4]). Therefore it is expected that there would be something like combinatorial geometry in  $K^k$ -orbits of  $J^k(N, P)$ . To investigate the Vassil'ev complex for contact equivalence is the first step in this direction.

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